P75
August-September 2003

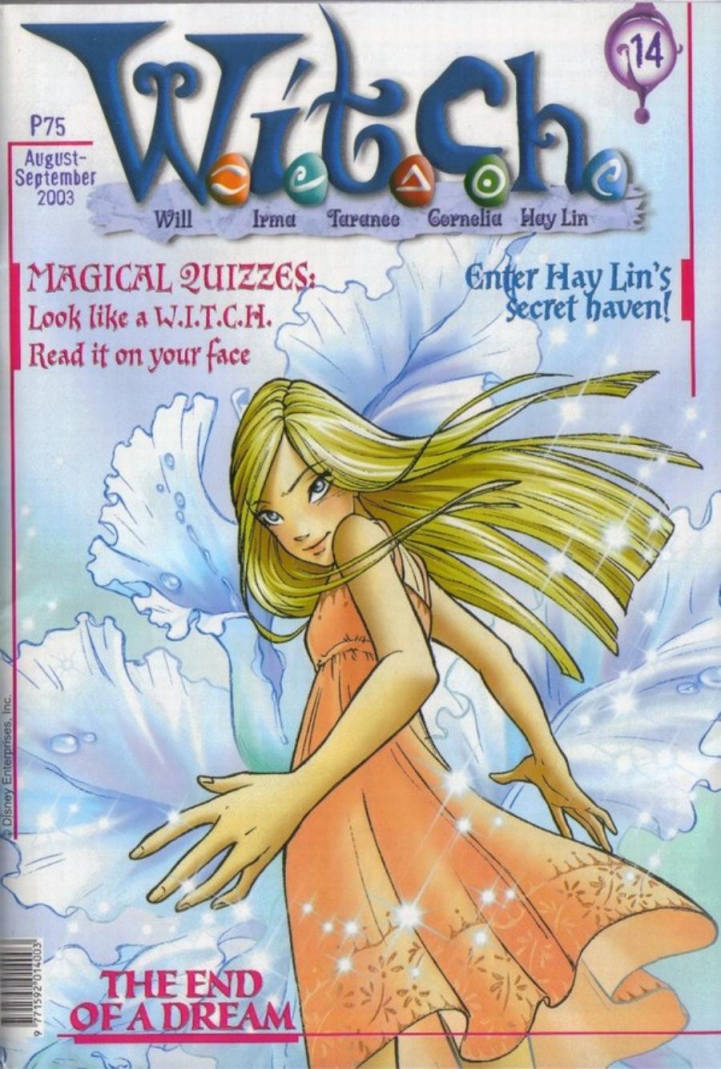
W.i.t.c.h

14

Will Irma Taranee Cornelia Hay Lin

MAGICAL QUIZZES:
Look like a W.I.T.C.H.
Read it on your face

Enter Hay Lin's secret haven!



THE END OF A DREAM

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The end of a dream

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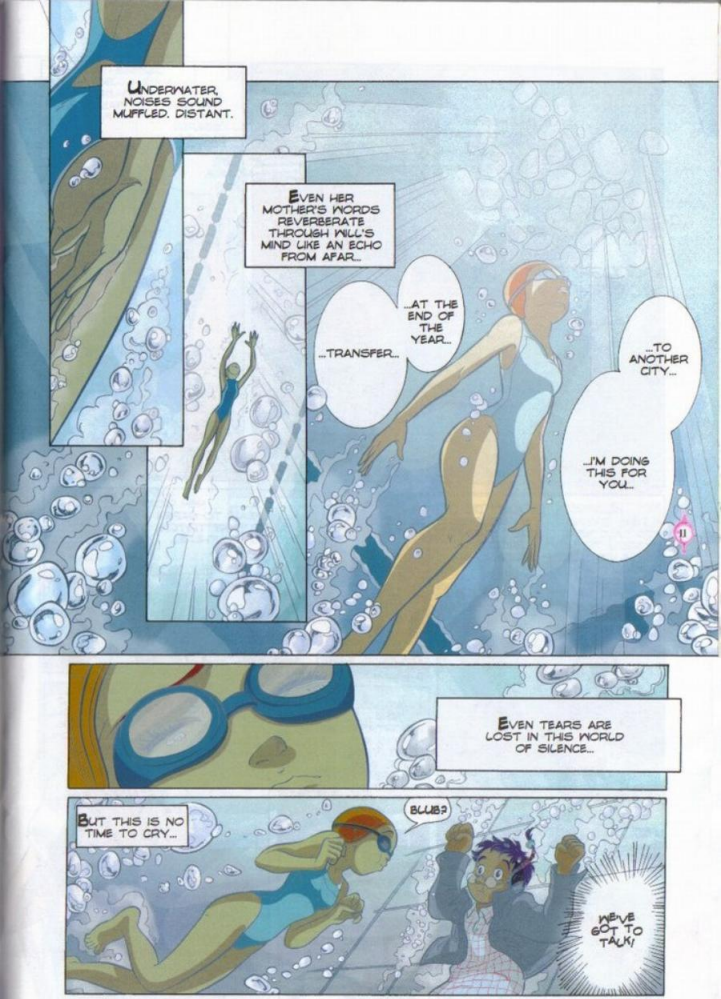
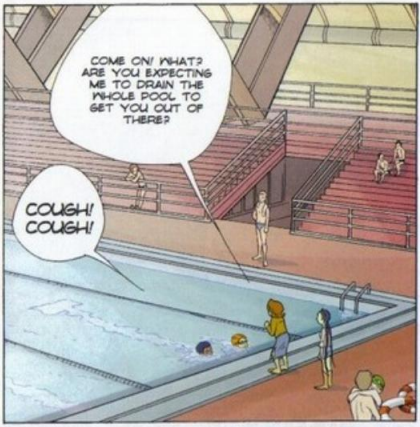

UNDERWATER, NOISES SOUND MUFFLED. DISTANT.
EVEN HER MOTHER'S WORDS REVERBERATE THROUGH WILL'S MIND LIKE AN ECHO FROM AFAR...
...TRANSFER...
...AT THE END OF THE YEAR...
...TO ANOTHER CITY...
...I'M DOING THIS FOR YOU...
11
EVEN TEARS ARE LOST IN THIS WORLD OF SILENCE...
BUT THIS IS NO TIME TO CRY...
BLUB?
WE'VE GOT TO TALK!


COME ON! WHAT? ARE YOU EXPECTING ME TO DRAIN THE WHOLE POOL TO GET YOU OUT OF THERE?
COUGH! COUGH!

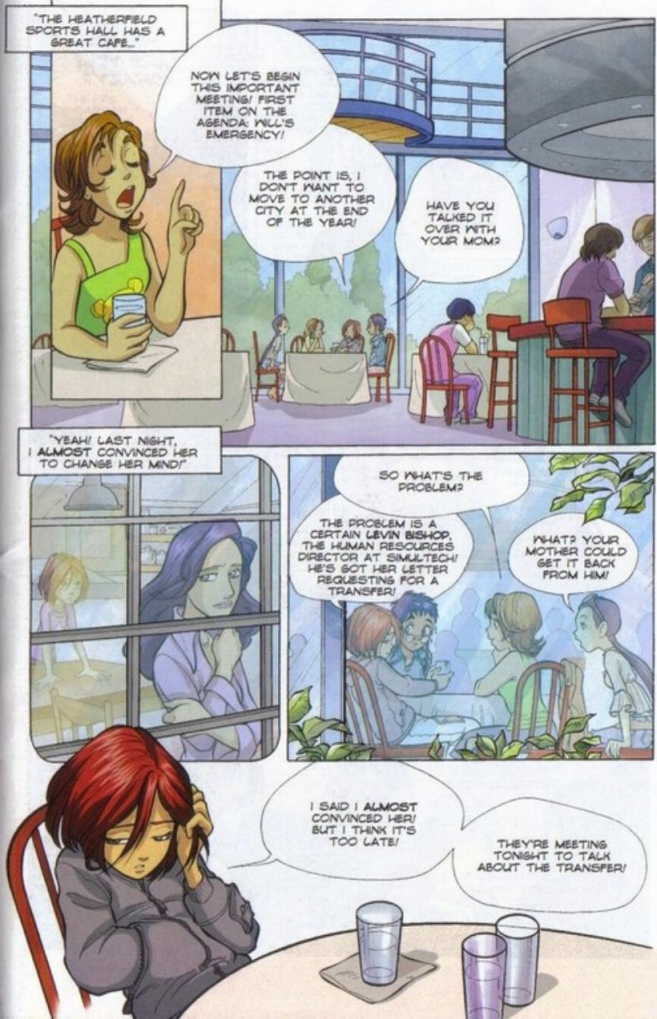
TARANEE! YOU SCARED ME TO DEATH!
SORRY, WILL! IT WASN'T MY FAULT!

I WAS TRYING TO CALL YOU FROM THE EDGE OF THE POOL WHEN SOMEBODY PUSHED ME!
I DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE! I JUST TURNED AROUND A SECOND AND...

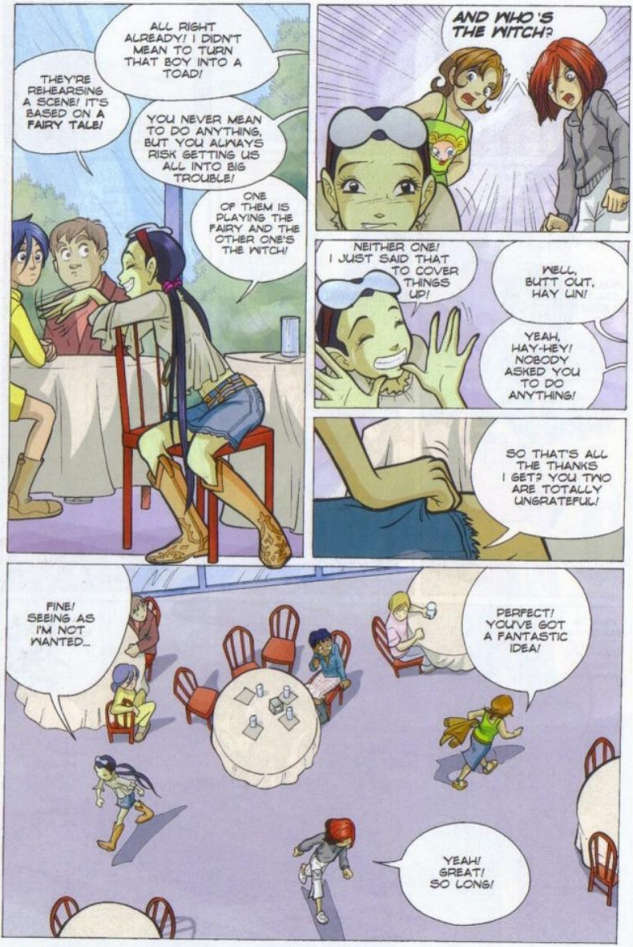
YEAH, TO GAPE AT THAT TRITON OVER THERE...
I WASN'T GAPING, HAY LIN! I WAS FANTASIZING! IT'S DIFFERENT!

WHATEVER! THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU GUYS ARE HERE! WHERE'S CORNELIA?
STILL LOCKED UP IN HER ROOM! EVER SINCE CALEB WAS TURNED INTO A FLOWER...

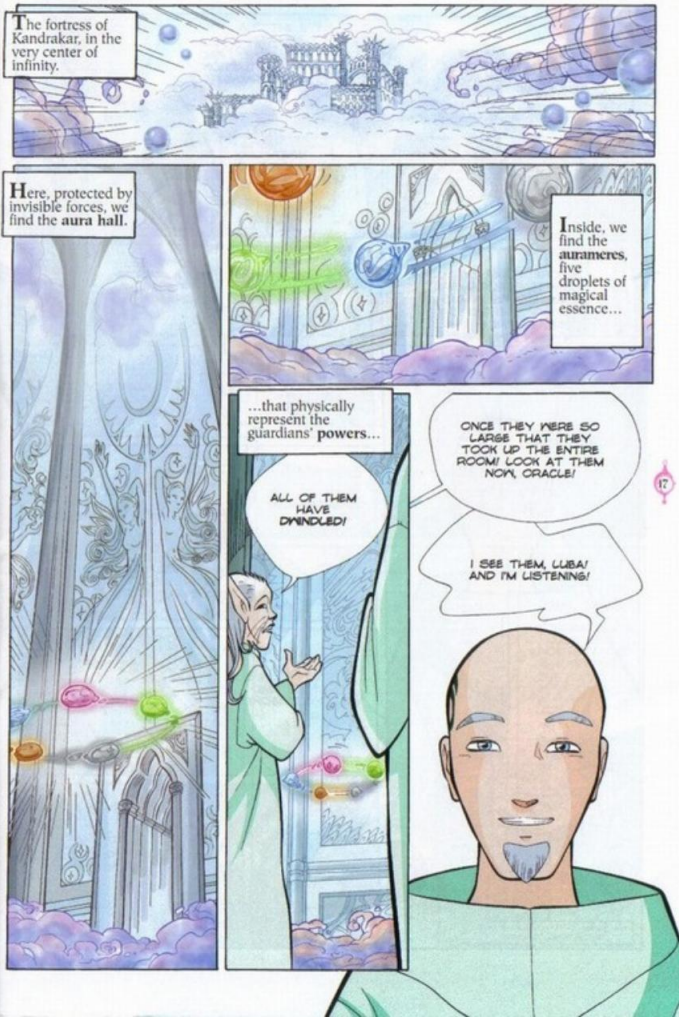
ANYWAY, PETRE HERE! LET'S TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR FREE DAY! SHEFFIELD INSTITUTE WON'T REOPEN UNTIL TOMORROW!
RIGHT! THEY SHOULD DO STRUCTURAL REPAIRS MORE OFTEN! FOLLOW ME!


"THE HEATHERFIELD SPORTS HALL HAS A GREAT CAFE..."
NOW! LET'S BEGIN THIS IMPORTANT MEETING! FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA: WILL'S EMERGENCY!
THE POINT IS, I DON'T WANT TO MOVE TO ANOTHER CITY AT THE END OF THE YEAR!
HAVE YOU TALKED IT OVER WITH YOUR MOM?
"YEAH! LAST NIGHT, I ALMOST CONVINCED HER TO CHANGE HER MIND!"
SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
THE PROBLEM IS A CERTAIN LEVIN BISHOP, THE HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR AT SIMULTECH! HE'S GOT HER LETTER REQUESTING FOR A TRANSFER!
WHAT? YOUR MOTHER COULD GET IT BACK FROM HIM!
I SAID I ALMOST CONVINCED HER! BUT I THINK IT'S TOO LATE!
THEY'RE MEETING TONIGHT TO TALK ABOUT THE TRANSFER!

BUT YOU CAN'T MOVE, WILL!
SHE'S RIGHT! NO ONE CAN SEPARATE US! WE'RE FRIENDS!
WE'RE ALSO THE CHOSEN ONES! LET'S GO INTO SIMULTECH AND GET THAT LETTER!
WHAT? ARE YOU CRAZY?
?
IRMA! WE CAN'T USE OUR POWERS FOR PERSONAL GAIN! YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT BY NOW!
SHHH!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MY RECENT TRANSFORMATION AGAIN? IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, I ALREADY EXPLAINED EVERYTHING AND SAID I WAS SORRY!
NOT SO LOUD, GUYS! EVERYBODY'S STARING AT US!
THEY...UM... THEY'RE TAKING ACTING LESSONS!
I'M TALKING ABOUT THAT PLUS ALL THE OTHER TIMES YOU'VE MADE A BIG MAGICAL MESS OF THINGS!


THEY'RE REHEARSING A SCENE! IT'S BASED ON A FAIRY TALE!
ALL RIGHT ALREADY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO TURN THAT BOY INTO A TOAD!
YOU NEVER MEAN TO DO ANYTHING, BUT YOU ALWAYS RISK GETTING US ALL INTO BIG TROUBLE!
ONE OF THEM IS PLAYING THE FAIRY AND THE OTHER ONE'S THE WITCH!
AND WHO'S THE WITCH?
NEITHER ONE! I JUST SAID THAT TO COVER THINGS UP!
WELL, BUTT OUT, HAY LIN!
YEAH, HAY-HEY! NOBODY ASKED YOU TO DO ANYTHING!
SO THAT'S ALL THE THANKS I GET? YOU TWO ARE TOTALLY UNGRATEFUL!
FINE! SEEING AS I'M NOT WANTED...
PERFECT! YOU'VE GOT A FANTASTIC IDEA!
YEAH! GREAT! SO LONG!

YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK EITHER ONE OF THEM IS CUT OUT TO PLAY THE FAIRY! YOU PAYING?
WHAT? OH, I GUESS SO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! THE ORACLE IS PUTTING US TO THE TEST AND WE DO NOTHING BUT ARGUE!
OUR POWERS ARE WEAK! I HAD A HARD TIME TELEPATHICALLY COMMUNICATING WITH WILL IN THE POOL!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US? AREN'T WE FRIENDS ANYMORE?
FSSSS
AREN'T WE MAGICAL ANYMORE? IS OUR DREAM COMING TO AN END?


The fortress of Kandrakar, in the very center of infinity.
Here, protected by invisible forces, we find the aura hall.
Inside, we find the auramores, five droplets of magical essence...
...that physically represent the guardians' powers...
ALL OF THEM HAVE DWINDLED!
ONCE THEY WERE SO LARGE THAT THEY TOOK UP THE ENTIRE ROOM! LOOK AT THEM NOW, ORACLE!
I SEE THEM, LUBA! AND I'M LISTENING!
17

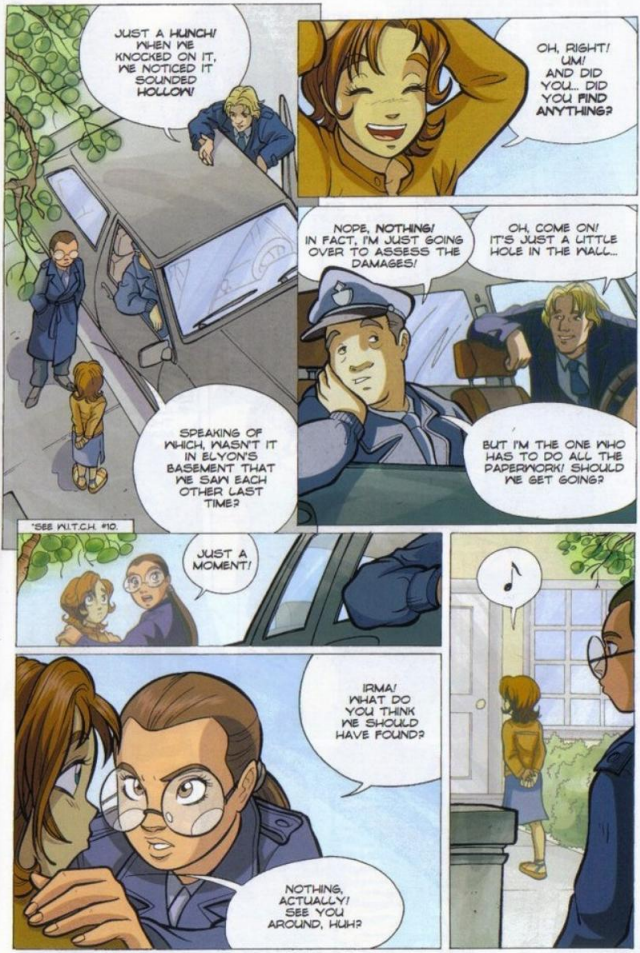
YOU ARE THE KEEPER OF THE AURAMERES! IT IS YOUR TASK TO OBSERVE AND REPORT!
AND THAT'S WHAT I'VE DONE! I FIND THE SITUATION ALARMING!
BEFORE YOUR EYES, LUBA, THIS AURAMERE REPRESENTS WILL'S POWER! THE POWER DERIVING FROM THE NYMPH XIN JING!"
AND THIS IS THE AURAMERE OF THE PEARL DRAGON!
...THIS, OF THE LONG DRAGON!
...THAT, OF THE YELLOW DRAGON!
...AND THAT, OF THE BLACK DRAGON!
*AS THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE READ M.I.T.C.H. 9 WILL REMEMBER.

BUT THE EYES YOU USE TO OBSERVE, LUBA, ARE NOT ENOUGH TO TRULY SEE!
AND THE TRUE POWER OF THE CHOSEN ONES CANNOT BE MEASURED!
DARKNESS CLOUDS THEIR FRIENDSHIP! AND THIS IS THE RESULT!
THEY HAVE A REBELLIOUS SPIRIT! THEY'RE YOUNG!
THEY'RE WEAK, TIBOR! I'VE SAID THAT FROM THE START!
YOU ARE UNFAIR, KEEPER OF THE AURAMERES! YOU YOURSELF REJOICED WHEN THE GUARDIANS DEFEATED PRINCE PHOBOS!
PURE LUCK! TO ME, IT SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY THING THEY'VE MANAGED TO DO!
OH, WHAT IMPUDENCE!
WHEN THE ORACLE SPOKE OF POWERS THAT CANNOT BE SEEN, HE MEANT...
COME, TIBOR! DON'T UNDERESTIMATE LUBA! SHE UNDERSTANDS! SHE KNOWS!

WHAT LUBA DOES NOT KNOW IS THAT A TEST IS BEING GIVEN!
ANOTHER TEST?
BAH! HE DOES NOTHING BUT PUT THE EARTHLINGS THROUGH USELESS, SENSELESS TRIALS!
NOT EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF THE AURAMERES CONVINCED HIM THAT THEY ARE UNFIT!
SOMEONE HAS TO OPEN THE ORACLE'S EYES BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
AND THAT SOMEONE IS ME!

OPEN YOUR EYES, ON EARTH, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SOMEONE IS BEING FORCED TO DO.
LET'S BE HONEST: WE AREN'T A TEAM ANYMORE!
HI, IRMA!
BEFORE, I COULDN'T STAND CORNELIA! AND NOW, NOT EVEN WILL...
MEDINA AND MCTIENNAN!
YOU GOT IT! BIG GUY AND SMALL FRY!
THIS LITTLE LADY'S GOT THE GIFT OF SYNTHESIS!
21
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
WE'RE WAITING FOR YOUR FATHER! WE'RE GOING TO YOUR FRIEND ELYON'S HOUSE!
YOU'RE NOT STILL INVESTIGATING HER DISAPPEARANCE, ARE YOU?
YOU BET WE ARE! WE'RE INTERPOL AGENTS, SPECIALIZING IN MISSING PERSONS, REMEMBER?

YEAH, SURE I DO! I WAS JUST WONDERING...
HI, GUYS! HEY, IRMA! WEREN'T YOU GOING TO THE POOL WITH WILL?
YUP, DAD! I JUST FINISHED EARLY!
LUCKY YOU! I HAVE TO WRAP UP A LOT OF WORK! SPEAKING OF WHICH, DID THEY GIVE YOU THE FILES?
NO! THE GUYS AT FORENSICS ARE WAITING FOR YOUR SIGNATURE!
GOTCHA! LET'S GO TO ELYON'S FIRST, AND THEN DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS!
...UHM! WHAT'S LEFT TO SEE AT THE HOUSE?
?
OUR DETECTIVES HAD THE WALL IN THE BASEMENT KNOCKED DOWN!
WHAT?
THAT IS... I MEAN... WHY'D THEY DO THAT?
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT WALL THERE USED TO BE A PORTAL LEADING TO MERIDIAN!


JUST A HUNCH! WHEN WE KNOCKED ON IT, WE NOTICED IT SOUNDED HOLLOW!
OH, RIGHT! UM! AND DID YOU... DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?
NOPE, NOTHING! IN FACT, I'M JUST GOING OVER TO ASSESS THE DAMAGES!
OH, COME ON! IT'S JUST A LITTLE HOLE IN THE WALL...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WASN'T IT IN ELYON'S BASEMENT THAT WE SAW EACH OTHER LAST TIME?
BUT I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO DO ALL THE PAPERWORK! SHOULD WE GET GOING?
*SEE W.I.T.C.H. #10.
JUST A MOMENT!
IRMA! WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD HAVE FOUND?
NOTHING, ACTUALLY! SEE YOU AROUND, HUH?

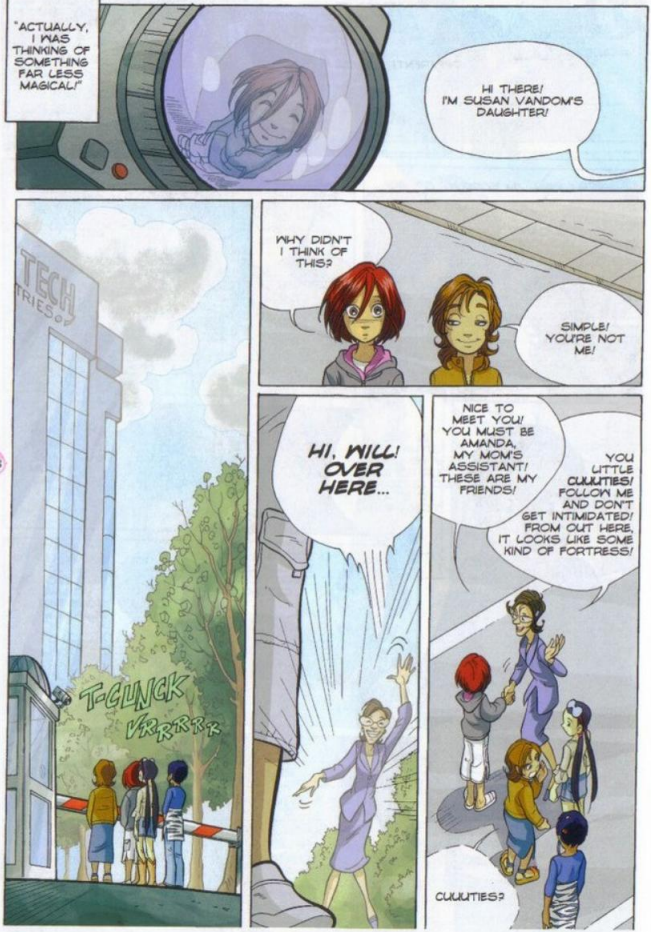
WHEN WHEN THE ORACLE BROUGHT DOWN THE VEIL, THE PORTALS DISAPPEARED TOO, WHICH BROKE THE MAGIC SPELL CORNELIA HAD CAST TO PROTECT THE PASSAGEWAY BEHIND THAT WALL!
CLUD
BUT WITH THOSE TWO DETECTIVES SNOOPING AROUND, WHO KNOWS WHAT COULD HAPPEN!
DRIIN
I'M COMING, DAD! DID YOU FORGET YOUR HOUSE KEYS OR SOMETHING?
DRIIN
ONCE I WOULD HAVE TOLD THE GIRLS EVERYTHING, BUT NOW...
I WONDER WHEN, AND ESPECIALLY, IF I'LL SEE THEM AGAIN!
CLUNK

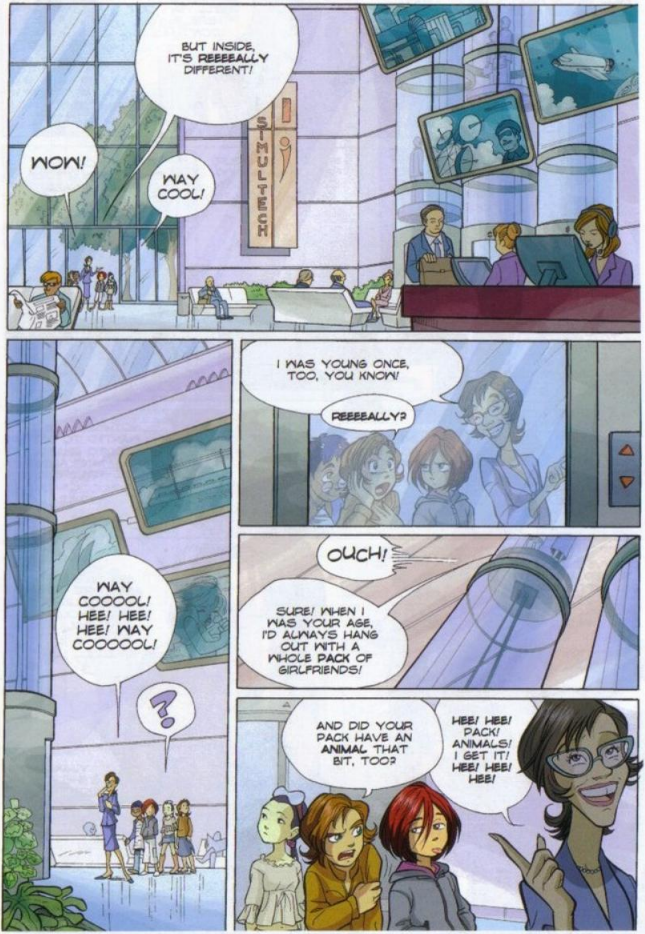
SO WHAT'S THIS? A DISCOURTESY CALL?
HANG ON! BEFORE WE START FIGHTING AGAIN, WILL'S GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!

YEAH! WELL, I'M SORRY!
HOW TOUCHING! I'M TOO CHOKED UP TO REPLY!

TARANIS MADE ME REALIZE THAT YOUR IDEA IS THE ONLY IDEA!
AND SHE JUST ASKED ME TO PUT UP WITH YOU ALL! I'M HERE AS A FAVOR TO HER!

IN THIS SITUATION, IF WE USED OUR POWERS, WE'D BE DOING IT TO STAY TOGETHER!
IT'D BE FOR THE COMMON GOOD AND NOT FOR...UM... PERSONAL GAIN!
YOUR REASONING IS FLAWLESS! WHAT'S THE CATCH?
WHEN YOU SUGGESTED WE GO INTO SIMULTECH, DID YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF PLAN IN MIND?
HOW DID YOU THINK WE'D MANAGE TO BREAK INTO THAT FORTRESS? BY TURNING OURSELVES INVISIBLE? BY FLYING?


"ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING OF SOMETHING FAR LESS MAGICAL!"
HI THERE! I'M SUSAN VANDOM'S DAUGHTER!
WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS?
SIMPLE! YOU'RE NOT ME!
TECH TRIES...
T-CLINCK
VRRRRRR
HI, WILL! OVER HERE...
NICE TO MEET YOU! YOU MUST BE AMANDA, MY MOM'S ASSISTANT! THESE ARE MY FRIENDS!
YOU LITTLE CUUUTIES! FOLLOW ME AND DON'T GET INTIMIDATED! FROM OUT HERE, IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF FORTRESS!
CUUUTIES?


BUT INSIDE, IT'S REEEEALLY DIFFERENT!
WOW!
WAY COOL!
STIMULTECH
I WAS YOUNG ONCE, TOO, YOU KNOW!
REEEEALLY?
WAY COOOOOL! HEE! HEE! HEE! WAY COOOOOL!
?
OUCH!
SURE! WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I'D ALWAYS HANG OUT WITH A WHOLE PACK OF GIRLFRIENDS!
AND DID YOUR PACK HAVE AN ANIMAL THAT BIT, TOO?
HEE! HEE! PACK! ANIMALS! I GET IT! HEE! HEE! HEE!

WELL! GIRLS! WHAT A SURPRISE! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
UM, I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT, MOM!
OKAY! COME RIGHT IN!
THANKS, BUT WE'LL WAIT OUT HERE, IF YOU DON'T MIND!
SO I'LL KEEP YOUR FRIENDS COMPANY! ISN'T IT JUST LIKE TOTALLY COOL?
OH, NO! NOW SHE'S STARTING IN ON THE TEEN WANNABE WORDS!
SO TELL ME, WILL, WHAT'S GOING ON?
NOTHING! I JUST WANTED TO GET YOU TO CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT THE TRANSFER!
WE'VE ALREADY TALKED ABOUT IT! IN A LITTLE WHILE A COMMITTEE IS GOING TO DISCUSS MY REQUEST!
I KNOW! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE...
SO TELL ME, ARE THERE ANY SWEET HUNKS FROM YOUR SCHOOL?
IT'S LIKE TALKING TO A DINOSAUR THAT DOESN'T KNOW IT'S EXTINCT!

MA'AM, WHERE'S THE OFFICE OF LEVIN BISHOP?
?
?

DON'T YOU THINK THAT WAS A TEENSY BIT DIRECT, HAY LIN?
IT JUST POPPED INTO MY HEAD LIKE THAT! PLUS, THERE'S NO MORE TIME TO LOSE!

THE PLACE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS DOWN THERE, DEAR! AT THE END OF THE HALL ON THE RIGHT!
THANKS!

OH, HOW DREAMY! WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE PANTS, AND THAT ADOORABLE JUMPER?
I REALLY THINK SHE'S GOT A SCREW LOOSE!

BETTER FOR US! COVER ME, WHILE I GO TAKE A LOOK IN THAT OFFICE!

YOU'RE SO TREEEENDY! LISTEN, I WAS THINKING OF GETTING SOME PURPLE STREAKS IN MY HAIR! YOU DON'T THINK THEY'LL CLASH WITH MY CLOTHES, DO YOU?

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE AURA HALL BACK IN KAN-DRAKAR...
YES! FOUR OF THE FIVE GUARDIANS ARE UNITED NOW!
THE AURAMERES ARE BEHAVING EXACTLY LIKE THE GUARDIANS ON EARTH.
AT THIS MOMENT, THE EARTHLINGS HAVE A COMMON AIM, AND THEIR AURAMERES ARE MOVING CLOSE TOGETHER.
THE ONLY AURAMERE TO KEEP ITS DISTANCE IS CORNELIA'S. HER FRIENDS MUST NOT HAVE INVOLVED HER!
BUT IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE! FOUR AURAMERES WILL SUFFICE! NOW THAT THEY ARE SO CLOSE, ALL I NEED TO DO IS BRING THEM TOGETHER WITH MAGIC...

"...AND WAIT FOR THE FOUR GUARDIANS TO USE THEIR POWERS!"
DRAT! NOTHING!
I CHECKED EVERYWHERE, BUT NO LETTERS! NO DOCUMENTS!
THE SAFE!
BISHOP KEEPS HIS DOCUMENTS IN A SAFE BEHIND THAT PAIN-TING!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT, IRMA?
WAIT, DON'T TELL ME! YOU JUST WENT AND ASKED AMANDA!
THAT WOMAN'S BRAIN MUST NOT BE CONNECTED TO HER MOUTH!
SO DO YOU KNOW THE COMBINATION TO THIS THING, TOO?
NOPE! AND I DON'T KNOW A GOOD SAFECRACKER, EITHER!

LET'S USE OUR MAGIC! ISN'T THAT WHAT WE'D DECIDED TO DO?
WELL? TARANEE?
THIS PLACE IS DEFINITELY GETTING CROWDED!
IT'S GOING TO GET WORSE IN NO TIME AT ALL! BISHOP IS ABOUT TO MEET WITH MY MOM! THEY'VE DECIDED TO START EARLY!
HE'S IN THE HALLWAY NOW! HE'LL BE HERE TO PICK UP HIS PAPERS ANY SECOND!
WOOOSH!!!
AND THEN...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS!
FIRST, I'LL SOUNDPROOF THE ROOM!
YES! HAY LIN IS FINALLY USING HER POWERS ON EARTH!

CONGRATULATIONS, HAY-HEY! IF YOU WERE TRYING TO MESS UP OUR HAIR, YOU DID A GREAT JOB!
BUT... I DON'T GET IT... I CONCENTRATED ON THE SAFE, AND...
...AND NOTHING HAPPENED! OUR POWERS ARE COMING AND GOING!
GO AHEAD AND SAY IT! THEY'RE AT AN ALL-TIME LOW!
LET'S TRANSFORM! JOINING OUR POWERS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN MANAGE WITHOUT CORNELIA!
"WATER!"
"AIR!"
"FIRE AND..."
"... "
"...WILL..."
HEART OF KANDRAKAR!
HELP US... FOR THE MILLIONTH TIME!
THE EARTHLINGS HAVE JOINED FORCES! IT'S MORE THAN WHAT I COULD HAVE HOPED FOR!

THE AURAMERES ARE DANGER-OUSLY CLOSE, THANKS TO ME! ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW...
"...IS THE FINAL BLOW!"
SEE? WE HAVEN'T LOST OUR POWERS COMPLETELY!
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVEN'T! BUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S GOT TO BE QUICK! BISHOP'S COMING!
SO IT'S DECIDED, THEN, SUSAN!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, LEVIN!
LET'S CONCENTRATE ON THE SAFE! WHEN I SAY THREE...
"ONE..."
"TWO..."
LEVIN BISHOP

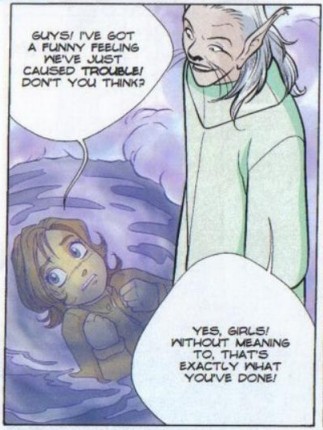
TOGETHER, THE GIRLS' POWERS CAUSE SOMETHING TO HAPPEN..
...AND THAT SOMETHING CREATES STRANGE EFFECTS BOTH IN KANDRAKAR AND IN HEATHERFIELD!
WEEEEE

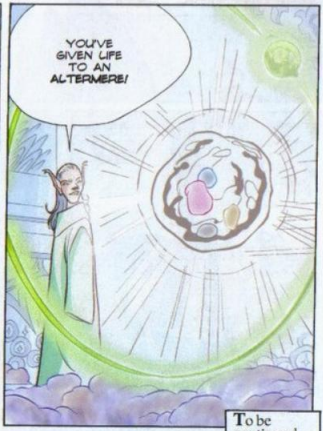
WHAT'S GOING ON, LEVIN?
I DON'T KNOW! THE GROUND SHOOK, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
WEEE WEEE WEEE
WHAT COULD HAVE MADE THE FIRE ALARM GO OFF?
A FIRE? OH, NO!
WEEE WEEE WEEE
WILL AND HER FRIENDS, AMANDA! WHERE ARE THEY? WHERE ARE THEY?
CALM DOWN, SUSAN!
I DON'T KNOW! I SWEAR, I DON'T KNOW!
WEEE WEEE WEEE WEEE
WHAT A BLOW! YOU GUYS STILL IN ONE PIECE?
I AM! I JUST HOPE THE SOUNDPROOFING WORKED!
WEEE WEEE WEEE
I DO, TOO! OTHERWISE, THINK OF WHAT A LAUGH IT WOULD BE IF SOMEONE WALKED IN AND SAW THIS MESS...
WHY HAVE WE ALL GONE BACK TO OUR NORMAL APPEARANCES?
WEEE WEEE

OH, THE ALARM'S FINALLY STOPPED! GOOD GOING, HAY LIN!
TOO BAD IT WASN'T ME WHO SHUT IT UP! I TRIED, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK!
STRIIISSSSSH
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO, IRMA! WATER'S YOUR ELEMENT!
OKAY, OKAY! ALL THIS FUSS OVER A LITTLE DRIZZLE!
HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING? OR BETTER YET, WHAT'S NOT HAPPENING?
FORGET THAT STUFF ABOUT OUR POWERS COMING AND GOING! THEY'RE COMPLETELY GONE!
I JUST DON'T GET IT! THIS WATER IS SIMPLY NOT OBEYING ME!
G-GUYS! LOOK OVER THERE! WHERE THE SAFE WAS!

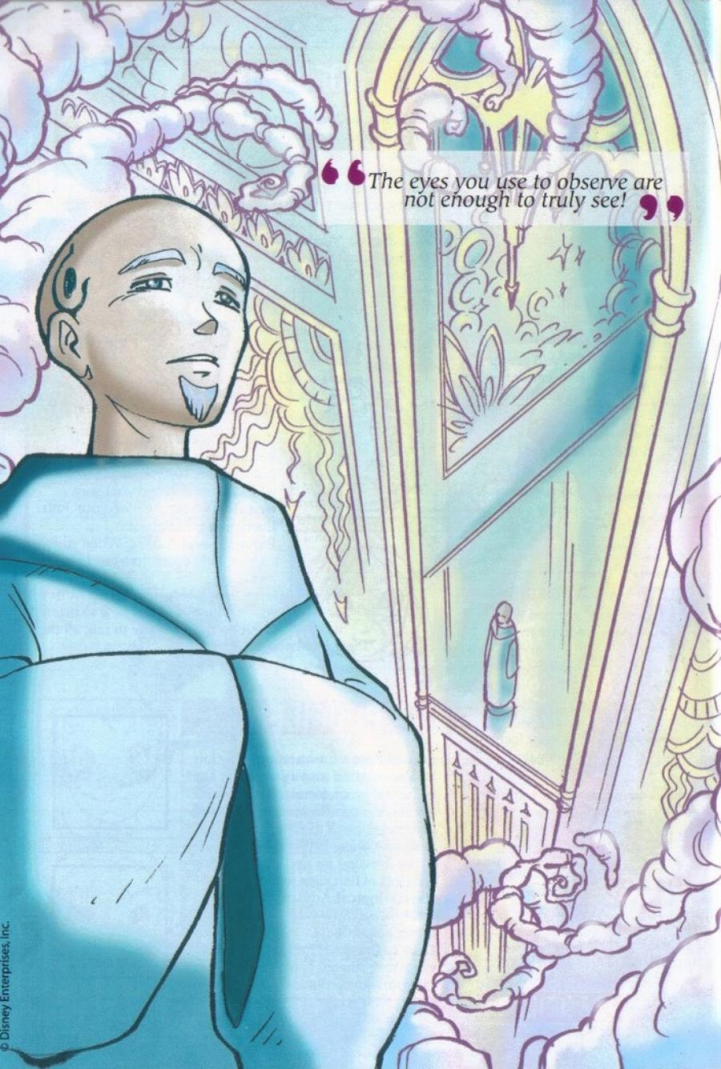
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL, WILL? THE SAFE BLEW UP! SO WHAT?
IRMA...
I KNOW! WE DIDN'T MEAN TO DO ANY DAMAGE, BUT THAT'S JUST HOW THINGS TURNED OUT!
YOU'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK!
OH, COME ON! THE LETTER WAS DESTROYED AND NOW ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TELL YOUR...
...MAAAMMA!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT IS IT?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? WILL YOU STOP SCREAMING?

FOR A MOMENT THERE, THAT... THAT THING LOOKED JUST LIKE IRMA!
YEAH, AND NOW...
...THAT'S YOU, HAY LIN!
UH-OH! I THINK IT'S ANGRY WITH ME NOW!
IT'S LIKE SEEING YOUR REFLECTION IN A 3-D MIRROR! I DON'T GET IT!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT...
FIUU
NO! STOP!


GUYS! I'VE GOT A FUNNY FEELING WE'VE JUST CAUSED TROUBLE! DON'T YOU THINK?
YES, GIRLS! WITHOUT MEANING TO, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE DONE!



To be continued...



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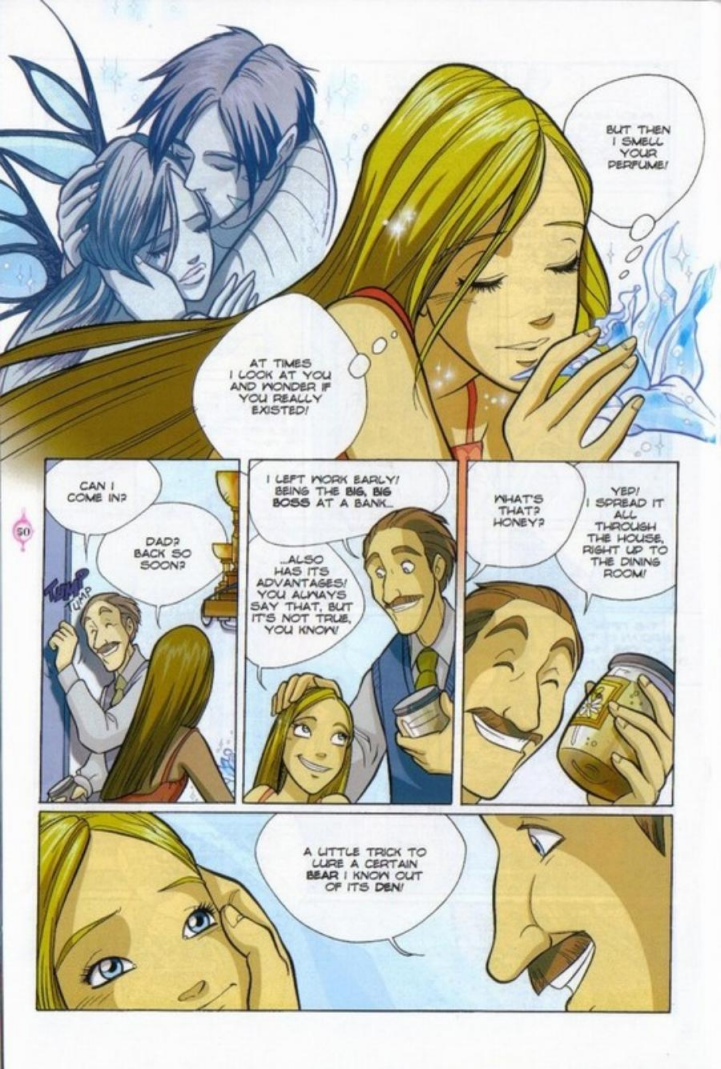
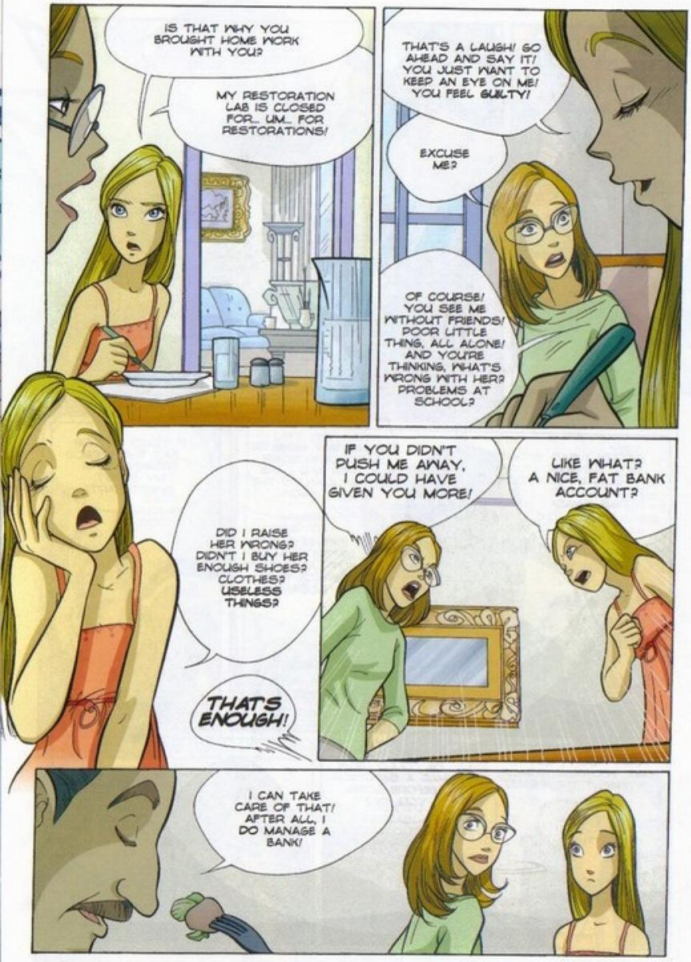
TIME PASSES, IN ITS OWN WAY, AMID THE WHITE WALLS OF KANDRAKAR...
BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE CONGREGATION! I, LUBA, KEEPER OF THE AURAMERES, HAVE GRAVE NEWS!
THE GUARDIANS HAVE LOST THEIR POWERS!
WHAT? HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED?
THEY FREED THEMSELVES OF THEIR ENERGIES, GIVING LIFE TO AN ALTERMERE!
OOOH!
IT WAS THE FAULT OF THE EARTHLINGS' AURAMERES! THEY WERE IMPERFECT, AND SO...
NO!
NO LIES, LUBA! I CANNOT BEAR THEM!
ORACLE! WHAT IS UPSETTING YOU SO?
I AM SUFFERING, MY DEAR FRIEND! AND YOU KNOW THE REASON WHY!
47

I TOLD YOU THAT A TEST WAS BEING GIVEN, LUBA!
BUT IT WAS YOU WHO WAS BEING PUT THROUGH IT, NOT THE GUARDIANS!
WHAT?
IT WAS YOU WHO BROUGHT THE AURAMERES CLOSER TOGETHER!
BUT THAT'S UNHEARD OF!
I... I...
YES! YOU DID IT TO MAKE US BELIEVE THAT THE EARTHLINGS WERE UNSUITABLE! BUT IN DOING SO, YOU COMMITTED A VERY GRAVE AND IRREPARABLE ACT!
WAIT... YOU COULD...
I CANNOT DO ANYTHING NOW, LUBA! YOU HAVE INTERFERED WITH FATE!
THE ALTERMERE IS MADE OF PURE POWER! THE POWER OF FOUR OF THE FIVE GUARDIANS!

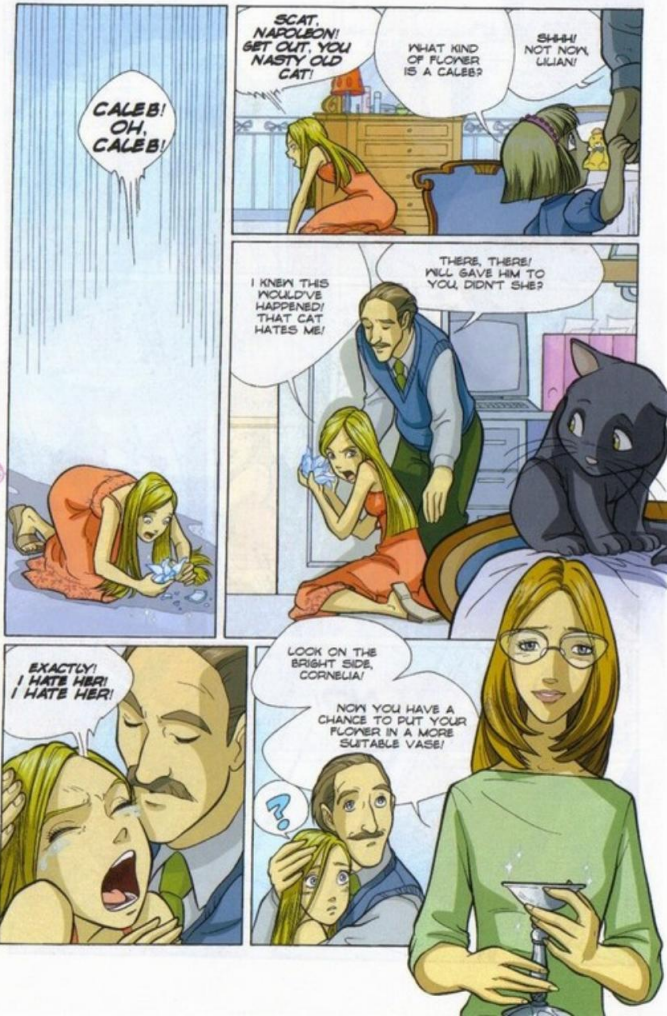
WHICH MEANS THAT THE CHOSEN ONES ARE NOW VULNERABLE!
YES! THIS IS A MOMENT LONG AWAITED BY DARK FORCES!
ORACLE! I HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT...
NOW, A HARMFUL, LEGENDARY BEING WALKS THE EARTH!
THE ALTERMERE WILL SEEK OUT THE LAST GUARDIAN! IT WILL FIND HER! AND THEN THE FIVE POWERS WILL BE UNITED!
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, NOT EVEN I WILL BE ABLE TO FORESEE WHAT IS TO COME!
"THE FIFTH GUARDIAN IS THE ONLY ONE WHO STILL HOLDS HER POWER!"
THE POWER OF EARTH!
IT'S COMPLETELY USELESS IF IT WON'T EVEN HELP BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE, CALEB!


AT TIMES I LOOK AT YOU AND WONDER IF YOU REALLY EXISTED!
BUT THEN I SMELL YOUR PERFUME!
CAN I COME IN?
DAD? BACK SO SOON?
I LEFT WORK EARLY! BEING THE BIG, BIG BOSS AT A BANK...
...ALSO HAS ITS ADVANTAGES! YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT, BUT IT'S NOT TRUE, YOU KNOW!
WHAT'S THAT? HONEY?
YEP! I SPREAD IT ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE, RIGHT UP TO THE DINING ROOM!
A LITTLE TRICK TO LURE A CERTAIN BEAR I KNOW OUT OF ITS DEN!

TLING
PLING
WE COULD USE MORSE CODE TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER!
YES, SINCE ALL WE HEAR IS THE NOISE THE SILVERWARE MAKES!
SORRY, I WAS JUST THINKING! WHY ARE WE EATING DINNER DURING SNACK TIME?
THE MOVIES! ANIMATED CARTOONS! YOUR MOTHER AND I ARE TAKING LILIAN TO THE EARLY SHOW!
EATING EARLY IS FINE WITH ME! BUT CABBAGE AT SNACK TIME! BLEAH!
IF YOU'D RATHER EAT THEM FOR BREAKFAST, BE MY GUEST, SWEETHEART!
WHAT I DON'T GET IS WHY YOU INSISTED ON EATING AT THE TABLE!
SHE'S RIGHT! WE COULD HAVE HAD A SANDWICH BEFORE GOING, YOU KNOW!
CERTAIN THINGS ARE DONE TOGETHER, AS A FAMILY!


IS THAT WHY YOU BROUGHT HOME WORK WITH YOU?
MY RESTORATION LAB IS CLOSED FOR... UM... FOR RESTORATIONS!
THAT'S A LAUGH! GO AHEAD AND SAY IT! YOU JUST WANT TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME! YOU FEEL GUILTY!
EXCUSE ME?
OF COURSE! YOU SEE ME WITHOUT FRIENDS! POOR LITTLE THING, ALL ALONE! AND YOU'RE THINKING, WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER? PROBLEMS AT SCHOOL?
IF YOU DIDN'T PUSH ME AWAY, I COULD HAVE GIVEN YOU MORE!
LIKE WHAT? A NICE, FAT BANK ACCOUNT?
DID I RAISE HER WRONG? DIDN'T I BUY HER ENOUGH SHOES? CLOTHES? USELESS THINGS?
THAT'S ENOUGH!
I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT! AFTER ALL, I DO MANAGE A BANK!

THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, HAROLD!
AND YOU TWO ARE TOO ALIKE, ELIZABETH!
HEE! HEE! HEE!
HA! HA! HA!
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT? SINCE WHEN DO YOU GET JOKES?
IT'S JUST THAT POP'S MAKING A FUNNY FACE! HE LOOKS LIKE NAPOLEON!
YOU'RE RIGHT, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT! SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE'S...
CRASH
THAT SOUND, IT CAME FROM MY ROOM...
I LEFT THE DOOR OPEN!
NO!


CALEB! OH, CALEB!
SCAT, NAPOLEON! GET OUT, YOU NASTY OLD CAT!
WHAT KIND OF FLOWER IS A CALEB?
SHHH! NOT NOW, LILIAN!
I KNEW THIS WOULD'VE HAPPENED! THAT CAT HATES ME!
THERE, THERE! WILL GAVE HIM TO YOU, DIDN'T SHE?
EXACTLY! I HATE HER! I HATE HER!
LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, CORNELIA!
NOW YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO PUT YOUR FLOWER IN A MORE SUITABLE VASE!
?!

HEATHERFIELD SEEMS TO BE FULL OF FAMILY QUARRELS.
DISAPPEARING LIKE THAT! WHAT ON EARTH WERE YOU THINKING?
WE WERE JUST TAKING A LOOK AROUND, MOM!
AND THEN, WHEN THE ALARM WENT OFF, WE RAN TO THE SIMULTECH LOBBY!
IN ANY CASE, THERE WASN'T EVEN A FIRE!
BUT THERE COULD HAVE BEEN, WILL! I'M STILL TERRIFIED!
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T HEAR, BUT THIEVES GOT INTO LEVIN BISHOP'S OFFICE, AND...
UM, I'LL GET OUT HERE! MY HOUSE ISN'T FAR AWAY!
ARE YOU SURE, IRMA?
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE YOU DRIVE ANY FURTHER! YOU ALREADY TOOK TARANEE AND HAY LIN HOME!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WE'RE GOING TO MEET UP LATER ON! YOU COMING, TOO, WILL?
OF COURSE! WE'VE GOT TO TALK ABOUT... UM...ABOUT... THAT STUFF! RIGHT!

SORRY, IRMA, BUT WILL AND I HAVE TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK!
OKAY! NO BIG DEAL! SO I'LL CALL YOU, OKAY?
POOR WILL! I BET SHE'S GOING TO GET TOLD OFF BIG TIME!
VROOOOM
IF YOU'RE MAD AT ME BECAUSE I WENT TO SEE YOU AT THE OFFICE, I...
LET ME TALK, BECAUSE I'M ONLY GOING TO SAY THIS ONCE!
I WANT IT TO BE PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THIS TIME THERE'S NO TURNING BACK! WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, I'M NOT CHANGING MY MIND AGAIN, ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED IT THIS WAY...
WAIT! HANG ON! IT WAS ME WHO WANTED WHAT?
LEVIN BISHOP WILL DO ME THE FAVOR OF NOT PUTTING THROUGH MY REQUEST FOR A TRANSFER! GOT IT?
WHAT?
OH, MOM! WE'RE STAYING IN HEATHERFIELD!
HEY! GO EASY ON THE HUG! I'M STILL MAD AT YOU!
SKEEEEK

EVERYTHING'S GOING DOWNHILL! BUT WORST OF ALL, WE'VE LOST OUR POWERS!
WITHOUT THEM, HOW WILL WE EVER MANAGE TO FIND THAT TRANSPARENT THING THAT DISAPPEARED FROM SIMULTECH?
SO YOU'RE REALLY SURE?
THE FORENSICS ANALYSIS LEFT NO ROOM FOR DOUBT!
?
NOT TO MENTION THE DOCUMENTS REGISTERED WITH THE CITY COUNCIL...
THE ONES FOUND AT THE BROWN HOME TURNED OUT TO BE FALSE AS WELL!
OUR BOSS IS CONVINCED THAT ELYON AND HER PARENTS WERE ILLEGAL ALIENS!
ALL RIGHT! BUT THEN AGAIN, THEY AREN'T TOO FAR OFF, SINCE THEY COME FROM ANOTHER WORLD!
THE TRUTH IS, HE WANTS US TO WORK ON SOME OTHER CASE...
BUT IN ANY EVENT, FROM NOW ON THE WHOLE THING'S GOING TO BE HANDLED BY THE IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES!

MEDINA AND I ARE GOING TO CLEAR OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL, AND...
YIPEE!
IRMA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? AND WHY DO YOU HAVE A SILLY GRIN ON YOUR FACE?
NO, NO, NO, DAD! I WAS... I WAS JUST...
JUST SAYING HI! HOW'S IT GOING, FOLKS?
FINE, THANKS! EVEN IF IT'S STRANGE...
SINCE YOU ALREADY SAID HELLO TO US!
HUH? WHO, ME?
OF COURSE! YOU CAME IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR AND GRUNTED IN THIS DIRECTION, JUST A MOMENT AGO!
G-GRUNTED, HUH? AND THEN WHERE DID I GO?
TO YOUR ROOM! AND THAT'S WHERE I'D ADVISE YOU TO GO RIGHT NOW, SMART ALECK!
UM...YEAH, SURE! SEE YOU AROUND, THEN!

I DID NOT GO TO MY ROOM, AND I DID NOT MAKE AN ASTRAL DROP!
AT LEAST, NOT IN THE LAST FEW HOURS!
WHICH MAKES ME ASK ONE SIMPLE QUESTION: WHO'S IN THERE?
SLAM
?

CLUD
WELL, MR. RUNNY FACE! IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT? THAT BLOB FROM SIMULTECH?
YOU EVEN CHANGED YOUR CLOTHES! AND THEY'RE IN FULL COLOR THIS TIME!
OH NO YOU DON'T!
SLAM
BEFORE YOU JUMP OUT THE WINDOW, YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO!
UM! F-FOR INSTANCE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT PHOTO OF...
CORNELIA?
EXCUSE ME, IRMA? I WANTED TO SAY GOODBYE AND...

CLUNK
TH-THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
SLAM
I...
I THINK I NEED A REST! EXCUSE ME, BUT I REALLY HAVE TO GET GOING!

THE ALTERMERE IS FREE! THE GUARDIAN LET IT ESCAPE!
SHE HAD NO CHOICE! YOU FORGET THAT IT ALSO HOLDS HER POWER!
OBSERVE, TIBOR! WHAT IS HAPPENING ON EARTH IS REFLECTED HERE, IN THE AURA HALL!
THE SINGLE AURAMERE FORMED BY THE UNION OF THE FOUR POWERS IS OUT OF CONTROL!
IT WANTS TO ABSORB CORNELIA'S AURAMERE AS WELL, BUT IT CAN'T FIND IT!
AT THIS VERY MOMENT, THE SAME THING IS HAPPENING IN HEATHERFIELD!
I SEE! IN SOME WAY, THE ALTERMERE HAS PERCEIVED IRMA'S MEMORIES!
AND IT WENT TO HER HOUSE, CONVINCED IT COULD TRACK DOWN CORNELIA!
YES! IT ACTS ON INSTINCT! IT DOESN'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE HOLDER OF THE POWER OF EARTH!
"TO FIND HER, IT NEEDS A GUIDE!"
NO LUCK! CORNELIA ISN'T ANSWERING HER PHONE!
I BET SHE TOOK IT OFF THE HOOK SO SHE WOULDN'T HAVE TO TALK TO ANYONE!

THE PROBLEM IS, I CAN'T GET A HOLD OF WILL, EITHER!
I TOLD YOU! HER MOM WAS TOTALLY FURIOUS WITH HER!

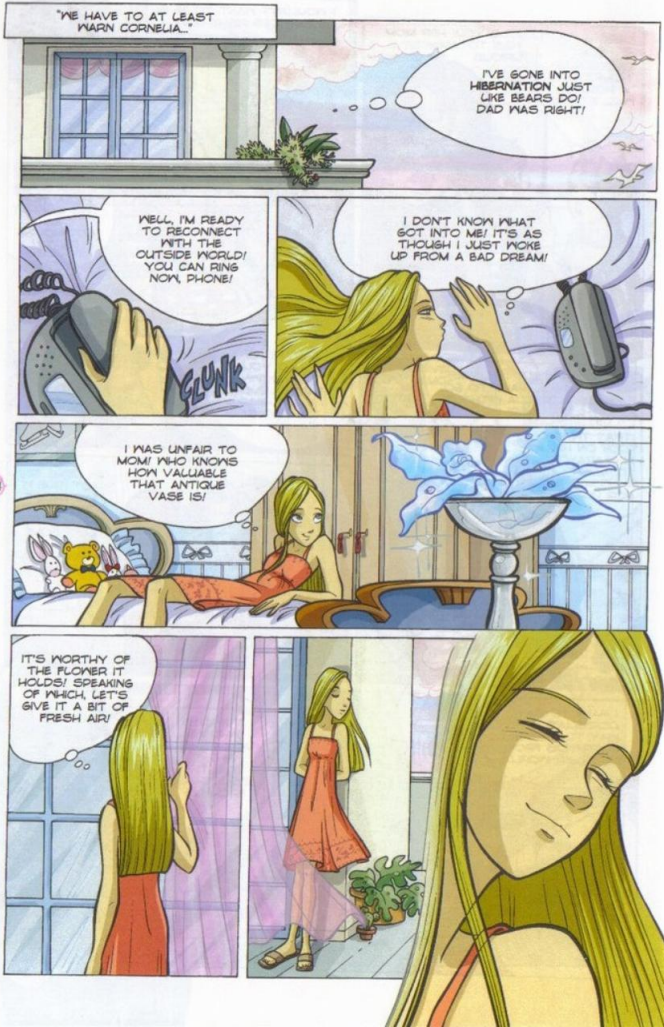
"I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE IN HER SHOES RIGHT NOW."
TUM TUM TUM
TUM TUM TUM
MEGA-SUPER-EXTRA-LARGE PIZZA! NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL A NOT-MOVING PARTY!
FANTASTIC! COULD YOU TURN DOWN THE VOLUME? I CAN'T HEAR THE PHONE!

SORRY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO GO SEE CORNELIA WITHOUT HER!
YEAH! THAT THING TOOK ON HER APPEARANCE! IT MIGHT BE LOOKING FOR HER!

OH, COME ON! LAST TIME IT WAS FROST LOOKING FOR HER! NOW IT'S JUST SOME SORT OF PUDDING-FACED CHAMELEON!

I HAVE TO SAY, CORNELIA'S GOT WAY TOO MANY BOYFRIENDS FROM THE OTHER WORLD!
BUT THINK ABOUT IT! HEATHERFIELD'S BIG! WHY DID THAT THING GO STRAIGHT TO IRMA'S?

IT KNOWS WHO WE ARE, GUYS! AND IT WANTS SOMETHING FROM US!


"WE HAVE TO AT LEAST WARN CORNELIA..."
I'VE GONE INTO HIBERNATION JUST LIKE BEARS DO! DAD WAS RIGHT!
WELL, I'M READY TO RECONNECT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD! YOU CAN RING NOW, PHONE!
CLUNK
I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT INTO ME! IT'S AS THOUGH I JUST WOKE UP FROM A BAD DREAM!
I WAS UNFAIR TO MOM! WHO KNOWS HOW VALUABLE THAT ANTIQUE VASE IS!
IT'S WORTHY OF THE FLOWER IT HOLDS! SPEAKING OF WHICH, LET'S GIVE IT A BIT OF FRESH AIR!

HERE WE ARE! LET'S HOPE SHE DOESN'T TELL US TO GET LOST!
SHE'S GOT HER TOUGH SIDE, BUT THERE'S NO REASON FOR HER TO DO THAT!
THE FACT IS, WE SHOULD'VE COME TO SEE HER A LONG TIME AGO!
YES?
HI, CORNY! IT'S US! WE HAVE TO TALK TO YOU!
F-A-N-T-A-S-T-I-C! TOP FLOOR! BUT YOU REMEMBER THE WAY, DON'T YOU?
?
HEAR HOW HAPPY SHE IS? THAT'S FUNNY!
I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL...
WILL!

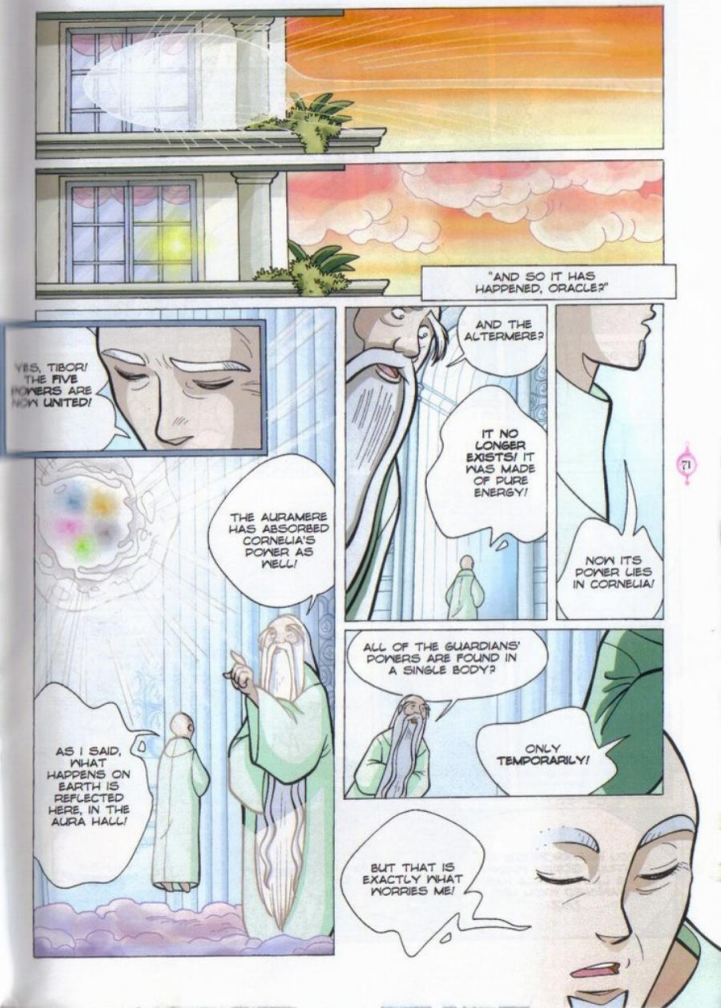
WANT TO HURRY UP, HAY LIN? THE ELEVATOR WON'T WAIT!
I WAS JUST JOTTING DOWN CORNELIA'S EXACT WORDS!
WILL YOU STOP SCRIBBLING ON YOUR HANDS? YOU'RE GOING TO POISON YOURSELF SOMEDAY!
HEY! LOOK!
66
THAT GIRL RUNNING UP THE STAIRS...
...THAT CAN'T BE WILL, CAN IT?
GLUD
YES! I REALLY FEEL LIKE TALKING TO THE GUYS! AND I HAVE THE HOUSE ALL TO MYSELF, TOO!

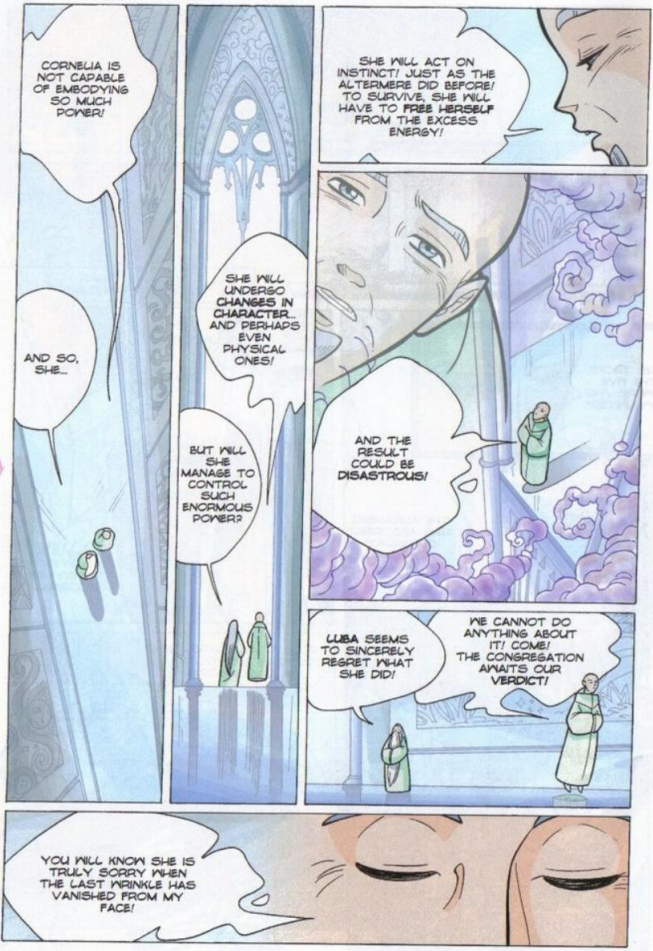
MEEOW!
NAPOLEON! GET BACK HERE THIS MINUTE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH, NO! HE'S GOING INTO MY ROOM FROM THE OUTSIDE!
YOU MEAN OLD CAT! CLOSING MY DOOR WASN'T ENOUGH TO STOP YOU, HUH?
DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH...
SCIIAFF
?
CRA!
CRA CRA
FFFT!

CRASH
MIEOW!
A CROW! IT WAS PECKING AT THE FLOWER!
SO THESE MARKS ON THE PETALS WEREN'T CAUSED BY THE GLASS BREAKING!
AND NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE WINDOW WAS OPEN THIS AFTERNOON, TOO!
NAPOLEON! YOU'RE SUCH A WONDERFUL CAT!
SO YOU DIDN'T WANT TO HURT CALEB! YOU WANTED TO PROTECT HIM!
?
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT? HAVEN'T YOU EVER SEEN A DUMMY CRY BECAUSE SHE WAS HAPPY?

I SAID SUCH MEAN THINGS ABOUT YOU! AND ABOUT WILL, TOO! SHE COULDN'T HAVE GIVEN ME A NICER...
WILL?
OH, WILL!
DOWN THERE! AT THE DOOR!
TING
IT'S ABOUT TIME!
CORNELIA! NO! STAY BACK!

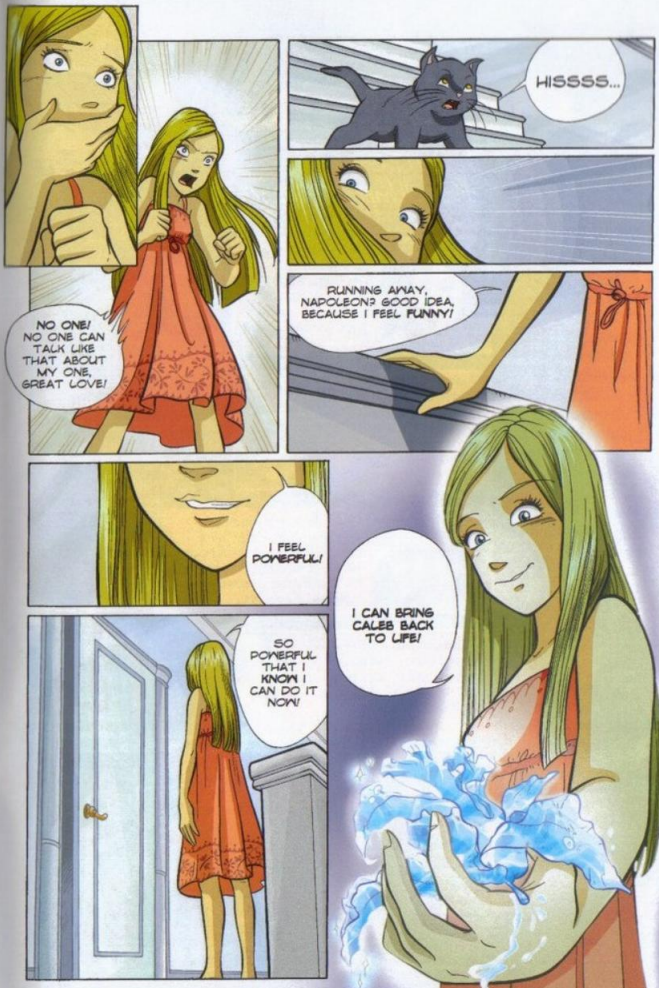
THAT
ISN'T
OUR
WILL!


"AND SO IT HAS HAPPENED, ORACLE?"
YES, TIBOR! THE FIVE POWERS ARE NOW UNITED!
AND THE ALTERMERE?
IT NO LONGER EXISTS! IT WAS MADE OF PURE ENERGY!
NOW ITS POWER LIES IN CORNELIA!
THE AURAMERE HAS ABSORBED CORNELIA'S POWER AS WELL!
ALL OF THE GUARDIANS' POWERS ARE FOUND IN A SINGLE BODY?
ONLY TEMPORARILY!
AS I SAID, WHAT HAPPENS ON EARTH IS REFLECTED HERE, IN THE AURA HALL!
BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WORRIES ME!


CORNELIA IS NOT CAPABLE OF EMBODYING SO MUCH POWER!
AND SO, SHE...
SHE WILL UNDERGO CHANGES IN CHARACTER... AND PERHAPS EVEN PHYSICAL ONES!
BUT WILL SHE MANAGE TO CONTROL SUCH ENORMOUS POWER?
SHE WILL ACT ON INSTINCT! JUST AS THE ALTERMERE DID BEFORE! TO SURVIVE, SHE WILL HAVE TO FREE HERSELF FROM THE EXCESS ENERGY!
AND THE RESULT COULD BE DISASTROUS!
LUBA SEEMS TO SINCERELY REGRET WHAT SHE DID!
WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT! COME! THE CONGREGATION AWAITS OUR VERDICT!
YOU WILL KNOW SHE IS TRULY SORRY WHEN THE LAST WRINKLE HAS VANISHED FROM MY FACE!

MMFF!
"BUT THIS WILL HAVE NO BEARING ON THE COURSE OF EVENTS..."
GUYS! WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THESE STRANGE LOOKS?
NEVER MIND THAT. TELL US HOW YOU FEEL, CORNELIA!
WELL, I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER! I FEEL... I FEEL STRONG!
AND WELL? WHERE IS SHE? SHE WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO!
SHE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR! EVEN IF THAT WASN'T ACTUALLY THE REAL WILL!
YEAH! IT WAS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR SUPER-TERRESTRIAL BOYFRIENDS!
YOU WOULDN'T BE REFERRING TO CALEB, WOULD YOU?
HUH? OF COURSE NOT!

YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING WITHOUT THINKING! AND JUDGING WITHOUT UNDER-STANDING!
C-CALM DOWN, CORNY! I WASN'T JUDGING ANYONE, AND...
GET OUT, ALL OF YOU! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
SLAM
THAT ISN'T CORNELIA! OR MAYBE THAT BURST OF LIGHT GOT TO HER HEAD!
WHY ON EARTH DID YOU HAVE TO GO AND SAY THAT ABOUT HER BOYFRIENDS?
HEY! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THAT CRACK!
TRUE, BUT WITH THAT TONE OF VOICE, IT CAME ACROSS AS NASTY!
STICKING UP FOR EACH OTHER, ARE YOU? IT'S ALWAYS MY FAULT, ISN'T IT?
FINE! I'M GOING, BUT ONLY SO I DON'T SAY SOMETHING REALLY NASTY TO YOU!


NO ONE! NO ONE CAN TALK LIKE THAT ABOUT MY ONE, GREAT LOVE!
HISSSS...
RUNNING AWAY, NAPOLEON? GOOD IDEA, BECAUSE I FEEL FUNNY!
I FEEL POWERFUL!
I CAN BRING CALEB BACK TO LIFE!
SO POWERFUL THAT I KNOW I CAN DO IT NOW!

End of Episode.